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OGC 70-1640

23 September 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

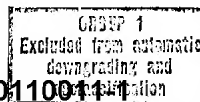
SUBJECT: Appropriations - Southeast Asia

1. On 23 September 1970 Mr. Maury and I met with J. Fred Buzhardt, General Counsel, Department of Defense, to discuss the impact of the amendments to the Defense authorization bill on the Department of Defense and Agency activities in Southeast Asia. We brought each other up to date on various recent discussions on the Hill with congressmen and congressional staff members.

2. Mr. Buzhardt said the result of his talks was to give Senator Stennis and Mr. Braswell the following language in the hope that it could be put in the conference report. Senator Stennis was sympathetic to the idea:

The conferees have agreed to the other language added to this section by the Senate on the basis of a clear understanding that it is not intended to enlarge or to diminish the pre-existing authorization but merely clarifies the authority to support actions taken by the South Vietnamese and other Free World Forces in the sanctuaries. The managers on the part of the House are thus in accord with the position of the Senate that this new language does not require any roll back or other changes in what have been the traditional kinds of operations, with particular reference to Laos.

SECRET



SECRET

3. Mr. Maury and I pointed out that Mr. Slatinsheck had asked for material for the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee as ammunition for possible elimination of or change to the amendments. Mr. Buzhardt said his discussions on the Senate side led him to fear that such action might reopen a debate in the Senate and lead to even more restrictive language. Mr. Maury and I agreed.

4. Mr. Buzhardt informed us that the President and Secretary Laird had had a meeting with Mr. Rivers on Monday, 21 September, at which they pointed out to Mr. Rivers that many of the points he was prepared to fight were acceptable to the Administration, including the Fulbright amendment, and Mr. Buzhardt believes Mr. Rivers will not reopen the amendment question. We agreed that at this time there was no further action to be taken on the Hill and we would merely wait for the conference report.

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LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

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Wednesday - 23 September 1970

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1 [] Mr. Houston and I met with Mr. Fred Buzhardt, General Counsel, Department of Defense, and discussed common problems relating to pending legislation, particularly with regard to the Fulbright amendment to the military procurement authorization bill. See Mr. Houston's Memorandum for the Record.

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